

lot of work. Simple television commercials and public service announcements, while they help, won't do the job. But if you have a doctor-patient relationship where the doctor knows the patient and that trust develops and a doctor supports the patient in their effort to quit smoking, it's much more likely to be successful.

The same thing with dietary measures. These are the kinds of things that we need to do that will help reduce the cost of health care and will help make Americans more healthy. These are the kinds of solutions that will help Americans stay out of hospitals and avoid other expensive institutional forms of treatment.

Just yesterday, my colleagues and I across the aisle debated these very issues at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. It was a great debate. But let me say that Republicans focused on strengthening the doctor-patient relationship that is fundamental to good quality health care. As I said before, we can't expect good quality health care to come about without this fundamental relationship between a doctor and a patient.

We think back to the old days, of Marcus Welby and how a physician portrayed as Marcus Welby on television had that relationship with the patient and their family. We think back to Norman Rockwell paintings that depict this type of relationship that patients had with the doctor, of mutual trust that focused not just on sickness but on health, not just on the disease process but how the disease affected the entire patient's well-being and their family circumstances.

These are the things that we as Republicans want to focus on as we try to introduce information technology into health care, a wide range of choices for families to pick a good health care policy that meets their specific needs, not somebody else picking what they need, let families pick what they need and put families back in control of their health care destiny.

Our opponents on the other side of the aisle have suggested a one-size-fits-all program, something like you see in Canada or in England where there are waiting lists for care. I know as a physician that when I was in Rochester, New York, we had patients who were being told they couldn't have heart surgery for 18 months and they were coming across the border into the U.S. to have their heart surgery done. A friend of mine who is a heart surgeon in England was told 6 months into the year that he couldn't do any more heart surgery and when he attempted to do so, his superiors threatened to fire him. Think of the patients that suffered because of this type of rationing of care. That's not what Americans want. Americans want a health care system that provides access and that's affordable and available.

I know, I think everyone knows, that Americans deserve better than what we're getting, and I know and I'm very

confident that we can make it better if we adhere to those principles I outlined earlier, of information and choice and patient and family control. We can create a health care system that meets patients' needs and allays Americans' anxieties, a health care system that gives all of us confidence that our health care needs will be taken care of. And we can do this by putting in place new policies that respond to consumer needs, individual needs, and the demands for more available and affordable health insurance and for more control over our health care decisions. That's what we all want. We want a health care system that provides real access to care, not just coverage on paper. There are far too many examples of where folks have coverage but not real access. We want access.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Dr. William Lloyd Birch, retired Baptist minister, Florence, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

We are so grateful for the blessings You have given to us. But the blessings of the past will not suffice for the needs of today. We know that if we commit ourselves to You, You will help us to focus on the needs of our Nation.

We confess that so often we fall short of the expectations You have for us. We are tempted and so often we succumb to these temptations. We put ourselves before others. We fail to show our brothers and sisters the love that You want us to demonstrate by the quality of our lives.

As we face this day, help us to be honest, unselfish, compassionate people. What have we gained if we obtain success in the eyes of the world and yet lose the sense of Your presence and Your will among us?

May Your kingdom come. May Your will be done. We pray in the name of our Lord, the God of our Nation.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLYBURN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2929. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

WELCOMING DR. WILLIAM LLOYD BIRCH

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me to welcome and thank the gentleman and scholar who provided us with today's invocation. Dr. William Lloyd Birch hails from my congressional district. He is an ordained minister in Florence, South Carolina.

Over his illustrious ministerial career, Dr. Birch has served as interim pastor in more than 42 churches. Dr. Birch is the founder of the Sociology Department at Francis Marion University, and chaired it for over 30 years. Prior to his retirement, Dr. Birch was a family therapist, and chaired the South Carolina Board of Licensing.

Dr. Birch is known by many in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina as their professor, as the minister who baptized their children or performed their son's or daughter's weddings, as the interim pastor at their church, or as the counselor who guided them through a family crisis.

Many have also seen him riding his horses, fox hunting or playing the bluegrass music he loves. Many of us are grateful for his work throughout the Pee Dee communities in South Carolina.

He is joined here today by his wife of 57 years, Jean, and I thank both of them for their daughter Lindy's work in my office on behalf of the people of South Carolina and the Nation.

BLACKBERRY CAPER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush and President Calderon of Mexico met in New Orleans to discuss mutual concerns of both nations, such as trade. Electronic devices by staff are not permitted in these meetings, and are left on a table outside the room.